

Resolution No. ZSR-23-07 of the Suffolk County Planning Commission
Pursuant to Sections A14-14 to thru A14-25 of the Suffolk County Administrative Code

Adoption of the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan

- WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Planning Commission at their January 4, 2023 meeting reviewed the proposed Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan; and
- WHEREAS, this review included a presentation on the Blueway Trail Plan by Andrew Freleng, Chief Planner with the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning and Kathy Eiseman with Nelson, Pope & Voorhis; and
- WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan was developed by the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning under a New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) grant provided under the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF); and
- WHEREAS, this Blueway Trail Plan seeks to create a route for nonmotorized boats along a waterway that combines recreation and environmental awareness while linking communities and land-based attractions; and
- WHEREAS, this Blue Trail Plan included an inventory and analysis of approximately 250 possible nonmotorized boat launch sites in Suffolk County and through a public process that is outlined in the Plan, selected 20 priority sites; and
- WHEREAS, individual "Project Profiles" were then created for each site which include launch site information as well as recommended physical improvements; and
- WHEREAS, while the Plan makes launch site improvement recommendations, no site improvements are authorized and any physical site improvements work will require future County and/or local municipality review and authorization; and
- WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality advised the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, pursuant to Section C1-4 of the Suffolk County Charter, that the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan is a Type II Action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.5(c)(27) as this Plan involves conducting concurrent environmental, engineering, economic, feasibility and other studies and preliminary planning and budgetary processes necessary to the formulation of a proposal for action, provided those activities do not commit the agency to commence, engage in or approve such action; and
- WHEREAS, the Suffolk County CEQ determined that pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617, Type II actions have been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment and under SEQRA regulations do not require any additional SEQRA review; and
- WHEREAS, Framework for the Future, The Suffolk County Comprehensive Master Plan 2035, identified, as a component of enhancing economic competitiveness and capacity to build an innovation economy, the goal of strengthening the tourism and adventure recreation sector; and
- WHEREAS, as indicated in the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan, Suffolk County has many valuable assets that contribute to its desirability as a place to live, work and visit. Key among these assets is the County's integral connection to surface water bodies including, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, and

WHEREAS, the concept for Blueway trails is similar in many ways to its land-based counterpart, greenway trails. Both networks provide a range of experiences, accommodating novices with “easy” routes that are short in distance and have a low level of difficulty, as well as longer more challenging routes for seasoned participants: and

WHEREAS, it is the ultimate goal of the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan to link the Blueway Trail to other recreational resources as well as to provide opportunities to advance ecotourism and economic development in Suffolk County; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan be conceptually adopted by the Suffolk County Planning Commission as a guiding document to facilitate the incorporation of Blueway launch sites throughout the recreational waterways of Suffolk County.

Suffolk County Blueway Trail Plan

Motion to approve

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
BALDWIN, STEPHANIE – At Large	X			
CASEY, JENNIFER - Town of Huntington				X
LEWIS, LASHECA – Town of Babylon	X			
CONDZELLA, JOHN – Town of Riverhead	X			
COVERDALE, JOHN – Town of Brookhaven				X
DOTY, DAVID – Town of East Hampton	X			
FINN, JOHN - Town of Smithtown	X			
FLYNN, DANIEL – Town of Southampton	X			
GALLE, ELIZABETH – Town of Shelter Island	X			
GERSHOWITZ, KEVIN G.- At Large				X
KAUFMAN, MICHAEL - Villages under 5,000			X	
KITT, ERROL – At Large	X			
MCCARTHY, THOMAS - Town of Southold	X			
MCCARTHY, TIMOTHY – Town of Islip	X			
PERRY, LISA – Villages Over 5,000	X			

Motion: Commissioner Timothy McCarthy

Present: 12

Seconded: Commissioner Perry

Absent: 3

Voted: 12

Nay: 0

DECISION: Approved